

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 31969P WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION	
See Form PCT/PEA/416		
International application No. PCT/EP2004/010410	International filing date (day/month/year) 16.09.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 17.09.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B64D47/02, B64D47/08		
Applicant ESG ELEKTRONIKSYSTEM- UND LOGISTIK-GMBH et al		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:

- sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau a total of 2 sheets, as follows:
 - sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
 - sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.
- (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 18.03.2005	Date of completion of this report 23.01.2006
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Monica S. O. Navarro Telephone No. +49 89 2399-7376



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/010410

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
 - international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements*** of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

Description, Pages

1-6 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-8 received on 18.03.2005 with letter of 18.03.2005

Drawings, Sheets

1/3-3/3 as originally filed

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
 - the description, pages
 - the claims, Nos.
 - the drawings, sheets/figs
 - the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
 - the description, pages
 - the claims, Nos.
 - the drawings, sheets/figs
 - the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

* If item 4 applies, some or all of these sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-8
	No:	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	
	No:	Claims	1-8
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-8
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

see separate sheet

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International application No.

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Re Item V.

D1: US-A-5 589 901
D2: EP-A-0 476 920
D3: US-A-4 218 702
D4: GB-A-2 338 694
D5: US-A-4 529 150
D6: US-B1-6 542 181

1 During the following of the procedure, a new document EP 0 980 828 came to the knowledge of the examiner which is of relevance for claim 1. The document was not cited in the international search report. A copy of the document is appended hereto.

2 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

2.1 Although the applicant's arguments, filed with letter dated 18.03.05, were taken into consideration it is still the opinion of the examiner that the present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, the reasoning being as follows.

The subject-matter of claim 1 is new, but does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT. Document US 5 589 901 (=D1) is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 1 and discloses (the references in parenthesis applying to this document):

Control station for controlling a plurality of accessories (10,12) on the exterior of an aircraft, the control station including:

- a single visual display unit (18),
- a single hand operable manipulation device(34), the single hand operable manipulation device (34) being usable for controlling the selected accessory (10,12),
- the visual display unit (18) being operated to display information relating to the selected accessory (10,12) (see figs., abstract and column 5, line 36-column 6, line 27, column 6, line 55-column 8, line 59 and column 9, line 33-column 10, line 39),

from which the subject-matter of claim 1 differs in that the control station includes a

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selection facility for selecting an accessory to be controlled.

However, document EP 0 980 828 (=D7) shows a control station including (the references in parenthesis applying to this document):

- a selection facility (214, 214a) for selecting an accessory (20,30,50) to be controlled, the control station being arranged such that upon selection of an accessory (20,30,50) the visual display unit (210,212) is operated to display information relating to the selected accessory (20,30,50).

Therefore, it would be obvious to the person skilled in the art , namely when the same result is to be achieved, i.e. providing control of a plurality of accessories on the exterior of an aircraft, to combine these two documents, thereby arriving at the subject-matter of claim 1 without performing an inventive step.

3 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-8

- 3.1 The additional features of dependent claim 2 is already known from D7 or is just a matter of a slight constructional change, which comes within the scope of the customary practice followed by persons skilled in the art and which do not appear to result in any particular technical effects. The additional features of claim 2 would therefore not result in an inventive step when added to claim 1 (Article 33(3) PCT).
- 3.2 The additional features of dependent claims 3-7 are known from and follow in an obvious manner from D2. The additional features of dependent claim 8 is known from and follow in an obvious manner from D5. The additional features of claims 3-8 would therefore not result in an inventive step when added to claim 1 (Article 33(3) PCT).

31969P WO / BRba

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CLAIMS

1. Control station for controlling a plurality of accessories (a^1, a^2, a^3, a^4) on the exterior of an aircraft, the control station including:
 - a single visual display unit (8),
 - a single hand operable manipulation device (10),
 - a selection facility (22) for selecting an accessory (a^1, a^2, a^3, a^4) to be controlled,the control station being arranged such that upon selection of an accessory (a^1, a^2, a^3, a^4) the single hand operable manipulation device (10) is usable for controlling the selected accessory (a^1, a^2, a^3, a^4), the control station being further arranged such that upon selection of an accessory (a^1, a^2, a^3, a^4) the visual display unit (8) is operated to display information relating to the selected accessory (a^1, a^2, a^3, a^4).
2. Control station according to claim 1, wherein a switching unit (6) is provided and control lines lead from the accessories (a^1, a^2, a^3, a^4) to the switching unit (6) and wherein a single control line leads from the switching unit (6) to the visual display unit (8).
3. Control station according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the selection facility (22) is included within the visual display unit (8).
4. Control station according to claim 3, wherein the selection facility comprises a plurality of selection switches (22) around the periphery of a screen (21), the visual display unit (8) being arranged such as to indicate the function of a respective selection switch (22) in a screen region adjacent to a respective one of the selection switches.

5. Control station according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the selection facility comprises a plurality of indicator lights (22) around the periphery of a touch screen type screen (21), the visual display unit (8) being arranged such as to indicate the function of the respective indicator lights (22) in a screen region adjacent to the respective ones of the indicator lights (22).
6. Control station according to one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the control station further comprises means (11, 12) for supporting the visual display unit (8) and the hand operable manipulation device (10), the support means (11, 12) being positionable adjacent to an aircraft seat (13).
7. Control station according to claim 6, wherein the visual display unit is supported by the support means (11, 12) in a variable manner such as to be positionable in a position in front of an operator seated in an aircraft seat (13) and in a position on one side of the aircraft seat (13) for not inhibiting entry into and exit of the aircraft seat (13).
8. Control station according to claim 6 or 7, wherein the support means (11, 12) comprises a receptacle positionable on a side of an aircraft (13), the visual display unit being located within the receptacle.